

Charity no.SC 010025

www.morayrda.org.uk

We have been very busy for the last few months as you will know by all the newsletters you have been receiving.

The main focus has been **Fund Raising** and **Training**.

Muriel who is part of our **Fund Raising** team gives an account of some of the events:

Soup and Pudding Day:-

Being a cold Saturday in March, folks were glad to call at the Church Hall for a warming plate of home made soup and a hot pudding. There were numerous stalls set up by a terrific band of volunteers and folks had rallied to make tasty Leek and Potato, Pea and Ham, and Creamy Mushroom soup (with kindly donated tins of Baxter's tomato soup in reserve). The puddings, also delicious and home made gave customers a choice of Bread and Butter pudding, Apple upside down cake and gluten free Chocolate Brownies. Lots of favourable comments for the tasty lunch were heard from our customers as they finished with tea and coffee and biscuits. It was good fun and time passed so quicklywe were very pleased to raise over £300

Cheese and Wine Evening:-

It was all Lesley Hutcheson's doing! She works tirelessly fundraising for the RDA and had collected a vast amount of quality clothing , bags etc. She asked if Mieke and I could assist in turning these items into profit and so arose a cheese and wine Evening with an admission fee of £2 at Mieke's home. We bought and set out a good selection of cheese, biscuits, egg mayo (for the folks who didn't like cheese) and Mieke made an alcoholic fondue! It was a great evening which was well supported by friends and neighbours and the total raised so far is in the range of £300. most of the items were sold during the evening but there are items left which will be displayed at the next car boot sale.

Thank you to all who made it such an enjoyable evening



Right and below

Muriel, Mieke and friend with some of the items on sale and goodies to eat at the cheese and wine evening

Dates for your diary

JUNE

11th AGM at Elgin Town Hall

16th Car boot at Inchberry all day

19th Wednesday term ends

24th Monday term ends

JULY

6th – 20th AUGUST. School holidays



Right

Mieke with some of the Xmas goodies at the coffee morning



Fund Raising cont:-

Lesley has a word:-

I'm running out of superlatives to describe how thrilled I am with your fundraising efforts this year! So far May 12 to April 13 we have brought in a whopping £6100. add to that a staggering £7850 we have received in donations and we're well on the way to achieving the approximate £18,000 we need annually to run the group. In addition to the events reported, one of the simplest yet effective ideas has been our penny pots and boxes. At the Xmas lunch in January Denise gave out wee boxed gifts and suggested that the boxes could be returned full of pennies. Then Ellen N bought and, with family help! decorated money tins with RDA logo and pictures to hand out. In a very short time we have already raised £88.

Please let us know if you would like a tin, but better be quick 'cos rumour has it that the faithful Cranloch Riding Centre customers have shown their support by snapping up lots of tins as soon as they were put out.

THANK YOU CRC!!



Our next big event will be our annual **car boot sale** at Inchberry, this year being held on **Sunday 16th June**. There's loads of ways you can help us with this event

You could donate goods for us to sell – donations being taken now: bring them along on an RDA day, or leave them in the RDA shed any time, or contact Lesley (Lesley.hutcheson@btinternet.com, 01343 842408) to arrange delivery/collection

You could hold your own car boot on the day – **Sunday 16th June**. — no booking necessary, just turn up (early!)

£7 per car, £14 per van

You could offer to advertise for us by putting up posters round your local area (Lynne will be emailing them round everybody nearer the time)

You could help with one of the many jobs on the day, contact Eliz (elizcrazymummy@gmail.com, tel 01343 556167) if you're interested

Last year we cleared over £2000. . . . can we do better this year?

In the word of Bob. . .



.....**YES WE CAN**

AND finally , as if you needed reminding, here's why we're doing it all:



Training

Friday 22nd March

Grampian and Highland Region
Conference and AGM

On a cold day at Cranloch it was great to see how many made it through the snow to attend. Fortunately no snow at Cranloch.

The day began with registration and cups of hot tea and coffee with scones, butteries and biscuits to warm us up. While enjoying refreshments Michael Simeoni, salesman for Nationwide Uniforms, presented different styles of t shirts...polo shirts... hoodies...fleeces etc. He told us of how the company specialise in logos, and work with not-for-profit charities and clubs. The company give back a small donation to the individual charities who buy the goods. He kindly left some samples for the helpers.

Afterwards we were split in to two workshops, the first group went to the indoor school where Pauline had two ponies tacked up. We were invited to check them over with three things in mind both for rider and pony ...safety...comfort.....purpose.... of the tack. The findings were related back to Pauline and discussed within the group.

- i.e.:
- Safety — Poor/worn stitching on stirrup leather
Numnah not attached to saddle....could slip back and off spooking horse behind.
 - Comfort — Halterif worn under the bridle, sitting too low can cause nipping and, if the pony is being led would mean poor control for leader.
So a guide is to measure the noseband sitting no more than two fingers width beneath the cheekbone
Badly fitting saddle. Pauline explained how a saddle should be fitted with a rider on. A badly fitted saddle can cause pain to the pony and bad behaviours
 - Purpose of — Girth straps and how they can be used to stop saddle moving forward.
Reins with clips. For riders who cannot grasp the concept of how the bit/reins affect a horses mouth and may pull too hard. To prevent this, reins with clips are attached to the head collar.

A lot of interest was shown while discussing different pieces of tack and it's uses



A break for lunch and then some serious fun! We moved to the portacabin where Denise and Heather taught us some basic **Makaton** which is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Some of our riders use Makaton. We were asked to demonstrate using some small game equipment., a lot of hilarity ensued.

This led us on to how toys and pictures are used in RDA sessions, and speaking of how a walk in the woods with the riders shouldn't just be a trudge but a walk with a purpose. i.e. looking for cows, planes, birds, trees (plenty of those!) Also seen on our walks have been foxes and deer so watch out for them next time you walk in the woods.

We wound up the day with Questionnaires being completed

A big thank you to Heather and James at Cranloch for the use of their facilities and ponies.

ASDAN



What is ASDAN ??????

ASDAN

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ASDAN

ASDAN



That is the question we are asked time and again especially by our new helpers.

All is revealed!!!

ASDAN stands for Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network

ASDAN is a charitable social enterprise with awarding body status, providing courses to thousands of UK and international schools, colleges, youth centres and training providers. ASDAN's programmes and qualifications offer flexible ways to accredit skills for learning, skills for employment and skills for life.

Once again Moray Group has a few participants working for their ASDAN

It is part of the current Education Programme delivered by RDA – celebrating small steps of achievement and building on the skills already used in our RDA sessions.

Over the last 4 years participants from Burnie Day Centre, Buckie and Keith Resource Centre have presented clients for this award.

This year Kestrel which is part of Elgin have got on board as has one home educated 10 year old.

As we do not ride between December and April the Kestrel pupils have been working really hard on their ASDAN Portfolios. They have visited A&I Supplies to cover various modules – what to feed a horse, grooming kits, and what to wear while riding. They need to complete 6 specifically chosen activities in the 'Towards Independence Programme' (Animal Care)

It needs a school, parent or adult learning centre to get on board as they will be the ones doing the bulk of the work in their time.

As the workbooks are being completed evidence will be collected and collated: so unless you have a classroom or a group that have to sit and wait while others ride then you will not have the time to do this during a normal session.

The riding section includes:

Mounting and dismounting safely

Riding the horse at walk and trot

Holding the reins correctly.

Riding School Movements – change of rein

cont. overleaf

Asdan Continued:

The horse care section includes:

Grooming the horse

Parts of the horse

Parts of the horses' tack

Knowing where a horse lives and keeping the stable clean.

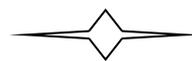
What horses eat

What to wear when riding

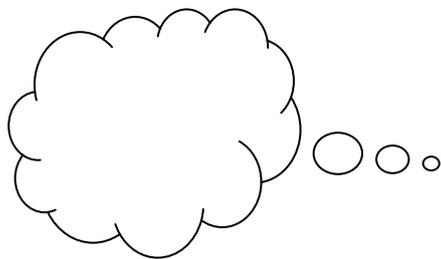
How to be safe around horses

If anyone is interested and would like to learn more regarding registering etc. please contact

Denise Kelly Tel: 01343850310



Now for a little bit of fun



What can Tim be thinking????

What are you thinking???

There will be a small prize for
the best caption

Send to Lynne at

tonyntosh@aol.com

and we will judge the best

one .

It may seem a while since Xmas but reading this will hopefully inspire you to join us this year!!!!

CAROL SINGING ON OUR TRAVELS by IAN McBAIN

Amazingly last years carol singing marked our 9th year of shared joy, fun and fellowship since we were first invited to Cedarwood in 2004. The following year we were asked to go to Kestrel (Elgin High School) We have also been going to Greenwards for several years but this year they came Cedarwood. One year we even went as far as Buckie! and, at Denise's suggestion, we also offered our time and talents to Anderson care home (Easton House)

In 2011 Denise surpassed herself by a making an entrance wearing a tutu, to the music of The Sugar Plum Fairy from Nutcracker. Denise has a different story each year which gets many of us involved.....almost a pantomime!

Last December, as well as Easton House, we performed in the wonderfully decorated main hall of Andersons. This was after the residents enjoyed their Xmas lunch and before the arrival of Santa Clause. We continued our singing in Easton House as the majority of residents there are unable to come to the main building for lunch.

Heather Younie accompanied us on her keyboard, this time enlisting the talents of her friend Linda, who played the flute. Not only did Linda play the flute but she invited the carol singers back to her house in between 'performances' where, with the assistance of her husband Jonathon, served up home made soup and sandwiches

Last year we were given donations amounting to £35 at Easton House and one resident burst into a lovely solo of ' A Little Bitty Tear Let Me Down'!

I look forward to these happy events every year and love to see the reactions on the faces of those who are sharing the singing, and performances.

I would like to thank everyone who gave of their time and talents last year and all the years past. I am also delighted that we continue to go to Andersons, especially as my wife Wilma, my dog Corrie and I have been involved there for over 10 years.

Jan McBain

Contacts;

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Treasurer L Hutcheson .. tel:01343 842408
Secretary Elanor Shanks. tel:01343 821565

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